

MACON COUNTY CASA

MID-YEAR NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2018



You Have Choices to Support Our Children

First, I want to thank our donors from the bottom of our hearts for the wonderful support we have received this past fiscal year. You have shown us that you are truly invested in children who have been taken into foster care, making their journey not only easier but, on average, eight months shorter, all while saving you tax dollars.

Second, we thank our CASA volunteers. They are very successful in their advocacy. One strong choice for you is to become a CASA volunteer yourself. See the list of our current volunteers included here.

This past fiscal year, our financial support from individual donors like you has grown to over \$60,000, and in late June, we learned that United Way funded an increase of \$30,000, again, because of donors like you. Another beneficial choice for you is to continue your financial support.

You have shown that, just like us, you cannot tolerate having 587 Macon County children in foster care. You, like us, ask why our community has almost 4% of all 16,800 children in care in Illinois when we have less than 1% of the state's population.

We have many new donors, and we warmly welcome you to our CASA donor family. We sincerely hope you will continue to give us your financial support. Together, we can significantly slow the scourge of families being broken and children forced to live in foster care (good as that may be).

With your response to our calls for action:

* We have attracted more volunteers. We now have almost 100 active volunteers, doubling the number we had in 2015. Our next 30-hour classes begins August 9th & September 27th!

* We advocate for more children. We advocated for over 244 children in the first six months of this year versus 163 in the same period last year and 153 in the first half of 2016.

* We were assigned more new children. We were assigned 80 children in the first six months of this year versus 43 in the same period last year and 23 in the first half of 2016.

* We advocate for a higher percentage of children than ever before. In the first quarter this year, we were assigned 66% of all children brought into care. Two years ago, it was 28%.

* We have used reserve funds to add to our professional staff as the number of volunteers and children assigned to CASA has grown. We now have 7 professionals and 2 office staff to support our volunteers, up from just 4 staff members 3 years ago.

* We were awarded a new VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) grant of \$130,000 and we are on our way to being self-sufficient even as our budget has almost doubled.

* Thanks to the county, we have a new address and brand new offices at the Macon County Office Building--with real windows--giving us a view of downtown and the court house.

We continue to be grateful for your help. Supporting CASA ensures that Macon County's abused and neglected children have a trained, caring CASA volunteer looking out for their best interest.

-Steve Miller, Macon County CASA Executive Director-

Macon County CASA
141 S. Main St.
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Decatur, IL 62523

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How to Volunteer:

- 1. A desire to help children.**
- 2. No legal or social work background is required.**
- 3. A minimum of 21 years old.**
- 4. Pass a background check.**
- 5. Provide 3 references.**
- 6. 30 hours of training.**
- 7. Call us at 217-428-8424.**
- 8. Go to www.maconcountycasa.org to apply.**

Current CASA Advocates

Christen Armour
Lacey Avioli
James Baird
Linda Baltimore
Michelle Barbee
Nicole Barrette
Sarah Biehl
Bob Bolin
Charla Bond-Jones
Kimberly Bretz
Crystal Brockway
Neidra Burries
Scott Busboom
Lisa Campbell
Rachel Cassella
Stacey Corzine
Susan Davis
Sandra Dunn
Michelle Econie
Crystal Eilers
Crystal Evans
Tamara Farison
Sylvia Florian
Shavon Francis
Tenia Fryer
Rhonda Gregory
Teresa Gregory
Byron Hansbro
Brooke Harris
Michael Heger
Betsy Hoffman
Stacey Hubbard
Shawna Hubner
Laury Hubrich
Timery Jackson
Sam James
Tracey Jerger
Calli Johnson
Shelley Jordan
Tena Karas
Donna Knop

Linda Latham

Jenny Littrell
Tim Littrell
Jeri Marshall
Margaret McCabe
Lucinda McClain
Jane Mescher
Helen Miller
Rachel Miller
Jeremy Morris
Mary Morrow
Jane Morthland
Judi Morville
Dianna Myers
Aissa Norris
Ada Owens
Scott Parks
Candy Petersen
Sue Pilling
Raphaella Prange
YaShika Reed
Jessica Renfro
Kyle Risby
Tara Robinson
Lois Rupert
Sarah Schrichuhn
Lori Shimizu
Carla Sloan
Trudy Smith
Vicki Smith
Carol Steele
Craig Stevens
Justin Sudkamp
Melissa Tallent
Julie Thomas
Cheryl Thompson
Christa Trump
Bonnie Virden
Nikki Walker
Christina Weemer
Jessica Whitlock
Marquette Windfield
Rebecca Wittmer
Andrea Young

CASA Ambassadors

Annette Belue
Marlo Butler-Jones
Nicole Card
Richard Dechert
Cristene Dugan
Judy Enis
Terry Grant
Christina Grimm
Kayla Elliott
Jeff Hunt
Ann Lograsso
Burnett Maddox
Stacey Mooney
Tera Niebuhr
Ted Paine
Gussie Reed
Monica Reynolds
Kyle Risby
Linda Sollis
Christine Snow
Jamie Stanzione

CASA Board Members

Richard Dechert, President
Marlo Butler-Jones, Vice President
Dave White, Treasurer
Annette Belue, Secretary
Amy Brammer
Anthony Chapple
Lee Morthland
Gussie Reed
Kyle Risby
Rae Stoner

Macon County CASA Employees

Linda Binnicker
Raynesse Coleman
Michael Coley
Kathryn Edgar
Melanie Ishmael
Julia Roundtree Livingston
Deanna MacFarland
Carol Metcalfe
Steve Miller



CASA By the Numbers

15-30 months = average length of time to resolve a case after abused and neglected children are taken into foster care.

10-15 hours = number of volunteer hours for one advocate to act as the voice of a child and to ensure a safe, permanent home.

\$2,200 = funds needed to support one CASA volunteer advocate for one year.

\$5,698 = funds needed to keep a child in foster care per month.

61.5% = percentage of new children in 2018 with a CASA advocate in Macon County.

0-21 = ages of abused and neglected children in the court's care.

80% = percentage of children in Macon County CASA's care under the age of 12.

****Supporting Macon County CASA saves taxpayers \$66,176 per year per child.****